

THIRD DAY

Sunday, the 23rd March, 1952.

The Legislative Assembly met in the Assembly Hall, Public Gardens at Half past Ten of the clock, pursuant to clause 2 of Article 174 of the Constitution of India.

(The Rajpramukh, H.E.H. the Nizam arrived at the Assembly Hall at Forty-five Minutes past Ten of the clock and was received at the steps by the Hon'ble the Speaker and the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. He was then conducted to the Dais, by the Hon'ble the Speaker, all Members standing. Hon'ble the Speaker and H.E.H. the Rajpramukh took their seats at 10-48 A.M.)

Time 10-50 A.M., Mr. *Speaker* : Order, Order. H.E.H. the Rajpramukh will now be pleased to address the Legislative Assembly.

ADDRESS BY H.E.H. THE RAJPRAMUKH

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me great pleasure to address this inaugural session of the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly, consisting for the first time of popular representatives elected on the basis of adult franchise. Today is indeed a red letter day in the history of Hyderabad State, for it marks the end of an old chapter and the beginning of a new one. It has been the privilege of the Asaf Jahi family for seven generations to administer this historic State under a system of Monarchy. Today it is my still greater privilege to address you as the Rajpramukh of Hyderabad under the secular constitution of the Indian Republic.

The chequered political history of the State has been marked by some extremely unpleasant happenings, but all is well that ends well, and the cherished desire of the people of the State for full integration as a component unit of the great Republic of India has now at last been fulfilled. The credit for this happy consummation goes to the great leaders of India; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who by their sagacity and foresight led the people to their goal surely and swiftly. The period of transition that followed the intervention of the Government of India in the affairs of Hyderabad has been one

of great importance to the State. Not only has law and order been evolved out of the chaos that prevailed in 1948, but the great task of holding free and fair general elections throughout the State has been completed smoothly and successfully, paving the way for the establishment of a fully responsible Government. At the same time significant advance has been made in nation-building and ameliorative activities by the Government under the Military Governor and the outgoing Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Shri M. K. Vellodi.

I do not propose in this address to give you a detailed picture of the many beneficent measures that have been undertaken during the last 3½ years. These years have witnessed a bloodless revolution, consisting of a large number of far-reaching reforms like the abolition of jagirs and other progressive legislation aiming at the betterment of the peasant's lot. For the peasant is the backbone of the State ; and it has been the policy of the Hyderabad Government to launch measures for his economic uplift. The latest—and most important—measure, as we all know, was the Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act promulgated on June 10, 1950, following the recommendations of the Agrarian Reforms Committee appointed in June 1949 by the Hyderabad Government under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Madhava Rao, former Dewan of Mysore. The main objects of this Act are :

(a) the elimination of intermediaries between the tillers of the soil and the State by the abolition of the institution of tenancy over a period of three years ;

(b) the amelioration of the conditions of the tenants in the interval ;

(c) the prevention of accumulation of lands in the hands of a few and of excessive subdivisions of lands into uneconomic units ;

(d) the preservation of agricultural lands in the hands of *bona fide* agriculturists by prohibiting alienation to non-agriculturists ;

(e) the establishment and encouragement of co-operative farming ;

(f) insistence on personal and efficient cultivation, on pain of neglected lands being taken over by the Government under their management.

This legislation is being implemented with as much speed as the Government's financial resources will allow. One stage is just being completed. The relationship of about 8 lakhs of

protected tenants with the pattedars or land lords, has been rationalized on the principle that the cultivator himself would become the owner of the land.

You will appreciate that the full implementation of this legislation is by no means an easy task. It will necessarily take some time, but I am sure that with the co-operation of the people, and you, their representatives in this Assembly, it will be possible for the new Government to confer the benefits of this legislation on the cultivators more quickly and effectively. Important as the problem of land reforms is, it has got to be faced in a rational and realistic manner, as part of the general problem of unemployment and poverty in the country. In the old days, when land was not in great demand, the Government had to assign lands to the people to persuade them to bring large tracts under cultivation. But times have changed and today the demand for land has so increased, owing largely to unemployment and underemployment among the rural population, that it has become very difficult for any Government adequately to cope with it. A more rational re-distribution of agricultural lands is called for, although it must be admitted that even this, by itself, is not going to solve the problem of unemployment, unless other avenues of employment are explored. The whole matter is under the active consideration of the new Government, and they expect to come forward with definite proposals in the not too distant future.

In common with the rest of India we have had to face a difficult food situation for the last few seasons. Several districts were afflicted by natural calamities. I am glad to say that my Government was able to keep the situation well under control with the help of the Government of India and the co-operation of the people of the State. The food administration is being overhauled in accordance with the recommendations of a Food Investigation Committee appointed in 1951. A new procurement system based on land revenue assessment has been introduced in consultation with agricultural interests. Procurement prices have been raised so as to reduce the price differential between Hyderabad and the neighbouring States which has existed for some time and which was found to be affecting our procurement adversely. The new system of procurement has been well received, as may be judged from the procurement of 110 thousand tons this year as against 58 thousand tons for the same period last year. Unfortunately we are faced once more with a poor rabi and tabi season. However, with a better husbanding of our internal resources, the Government hope to reduce their dependence on the over-all availability in the country. This will not only release imported grains for other areas in India but will also

help us in conserving our finances, the strain on which is heavy on account of the very high prices that we have to pay for the imported grains. My Government are fully aware of the dissatisfaction of the rice-eating population of the State in general, and in rationed areas in particular, at the meagre rice ration allowed to them. I am glad to say that the situation has improved in the recent past and the Government are confident that with the help of the Government of India they will be in a position to increase the quantum in the near future. It would be well to remember, however, that the rice position in the country will remain a problem for a few years more. I would therefore earnestly appeal to you to help the Government in popularizing cereals other than rice which are not so scarce. The Women's Food Council in Hyderabad has done commendable work in this direction by establishing cafeterias serving subsidiary foods.

In Hyderabad, as in the rest of India, food has happily remained above politics for the last few years. This tradition must be maintained if we are to surmount our difficulties in this sphere. I should like to take this opportunity to appeal to you for full co-operation with the Government in solving the country's most pressing problem—a co-operation which I have no doubt will be forthcoming in full measure. On their part my Government will make every effort to associate public opinion as represented in the House with all their food policies.

From the view point of law and order we have been passing through a rather abnormal period during the last three years since the collapse of the administrative machinery of the State in September 1948. Certain parts of Telangana have become the scene of violent activities by anti-social elements masquerading under different garbs and exploiting the situation created by the poverty of the peasants and workers, the existence of a feudal set up, and a defective administrative system. To meet this abnormal situation considerable police forces requisitioned from the neighbouring States had to be stationed in the affected regions, causing an increase in police expenditure. It is satisfactory to note that conditions are gradually returning to normal, although, of course, the situation has still to be carefully watched. This improved position has made it possible for the Government to effect a saving of Rs. 177 lakhs in police expenditure in the year 1952-53 by reducing the expenditure from Rs. 674 to Rs. 497 lakhs. It has been decided to return within a couple of months all the remaining police forces requisitioned from the neighbouring States. I hope that the new Government, with your goodwill and co-operation, will be able next year to cut down the police expenditure further.

It is against this background that the State's Five-year Plan and the budget proposals will have to be viewed. The main features of the Five-year Plan, which you will find closely integrated with the National Five-year Plan, are developments envisaged in respect of agriculture and rural development, irrigation and power projects, industries, roads, education, medical and public health, the figures for which are as follows :—

1. Agriculture and Rural Development Rs. 463 lakhs.
2. Irrigation and Power Projects ...Rs. 2697 lakhs.
3. Industries ...Rs. 294 lakhs.
4. Roads ...Rs. 129 lakhs.
5. Education ...Rs. 264 lakhs.
6. Medical & Public Health ...Rs. 205 lakhs.

All these figures are in Indian Currency.

It will be seen that out of the 41 crores that the Government of Hyderabad propose to invest on their Five-Year Plan of prosperity, nearly 27 crores have been earmarked for (14) irrigation and hydro-electric projects. The Tungabhadra Project, the Godavari Project, the Ramagundam Thermal Station and the Nizamsagar Hydro-Electric Scheme form the central features of the Plan, although several minor irrigation projects, on which it is proposed to spend Rs. 70 lakhs, will be an important supplement. It is hoped that it will be possible to persuade the Central Government to accept our proposals and include the Godavari and Lower Krishna Projects as well as the Hydro-Electric Project of Tungabhadra in our first Five-Year Plan.

Social services and nation-building activities have been given due recognition in the Plan. About 5 crores of rupees have been provided for education and public health and other similar services. As far as education is concerned, general education has been allotted Rs. 236 lakhs, and technical and vocational education Rs. 28 lakhs. Agriculture as the main stay of the people has received its due importance with Rs. 346 lakhs, while industrial development gets Rs. 294 lakhs. All these figures are in Indian Currency. The success of the Five-Year Plan, like that of any other project, will be governed entirely by the co-operation and co-ordination between official and non-official agencies, and I have no doubt that this will be forthcoming in full measure.

The original plan had to be curtailed owing to the financial situation, but, as you will see from the budget, the implementation even of this modest plan will impose a heavy strain on the financial resources of the State. However, the possibilities

are immense, and I feel you will agree that in the interests of a prosperous future it is worthwhile our making some sacrifice in the present.

Naturally the new Government are not yet ready to place any legislative business before the Assembly in this short session. The financial statement prepared by the previous Government will no doubt be placed before you ; but the new Government, not having had an opportunity of examining it in detail, will come, to the Assembly at its next session for review of the budget proposals. For the present a vote on account for three months will be sought.

You are today embarking on a new and great experiment in democracy. The cherished aspirations of the people of this State for the establishment of fully responsible Government have been realized. A fully elected legislature has assumed responsibility for the administration of the State through its own representatives, who have formed the Government with the sincere and single desire of serving the people. They have undertaken very heavy responsibilities, which all of you will be called upon to share. During the course of long centuries this State has developed distinctive cultural traditions, which it should be our duty, in the interests of the people, to preserve. Within the frame work of a free democratic India, this State will have to play its role as an integral and significant unit as regulated by the Constitution of India. I am certain that no section of the people of this State will want to relapse to the outmoded attitude of isolation and negation. As the elected representatives of the people of the State I hope you will bring to bear upon all such questions your ripe and balanced judgement and arrive at decisions which will help the peaceful progress and prosperity of the State as a whole.

I will make only one other observation before I close. The conception of a secular State is one of the fundamental principles of the Indian Constitution. It is essential that this conception must be translated into practice in our daily lives. The tradition of communal amity that has characterised Hyderabad is a model and an example to the whole of India, and I am sure that under your guidance this tradition will live on and prosper. A Government composed of Congressmen has come into power, and I have no doubt in my mind that with the people's backing it will be able to stimulate and accelerate the economic regeneration of the State and undertake an all-out drive for the uplift of the common man and the mass of the unemployed. In this stupendous task I wish my new Government and Assembly all godspeed. To all members of this first popular Legislative Assembly of the

State I extend my congratulations. I am glad to see a number of lady members in the House, and my Government and I would be happy to see more of them returned to the House as evidence of the recognition of the part that the women of the State will be called upon to play in its affairs in the future.

Before taking leave of you with a prayer to Almighty God to bless and guide you in your deliberations, I again offer you my best wishes.

JAI HIND !

After the Address H.E.H. the Rajpramukh accompanied by the Hon'ble the Speaker left the House at 11-15 A.M.

Mr. Speaker (The Hon'ble Shri Kashinath Rao Vaidya) returned and took the Chair.

Shri M. S. Rajalingam (Warangal) : Speaker, Sir Before the House is adjourned, I am anxious to know whether there is going to be a notification regarding the re-election of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : I do not follow.

Shri M. S. Rajalingam : I wish to know whether there is going to be a notification regarding the repolling for the election of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker : Yesterday we had decided, that it will be on the 28th.

Shri M. S. Rajalingam : Is there going to be a Government notification ?

Mr. Speaker : No.

Mr. Speaker : The House is adjourned to meet at Fifty Five Minutes Past Four of the clock on Monday ; the budget will be presented at 5 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned till Fifty Five Minutes Past Four of the clock on Monday the 24th March, 1952.